



# Power of DoD-VHA Sharing Conference



Florida

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## **VA/DoD Joint Opportunities: Integrated Post-Combat Care**

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VA National Director

Post-Deployment Integrated Care Initiative



# VA/DoD Joint Opportunities: Integrated Post-Combat Care

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## History of Integrated Post-Combat Care

- Integrated post-combat care programs emerged following first Gulf War (both VA and DoD): RAND, IOM supported
- Formulating and implementing the notion of “Integrated Post-Combat Care”
- 2006: **VAPS designated “best practices”** in VA
- Winter 2008: **Post-Deployment Integrated Care Initiative** through VACO Primary Care
- National training in Seattle September 2008
- VISN trainings completed May 2009



# VA/DoD Joint Opportunities: Integrated Post-Combat Care

- Collaboration with DoD:
  - MTF/VAMC
    - BDHIE
  - Seamless transition programs
  - Guard/Reserve Units (PDHRA)
  - National Evolving Paradigms Conference: September 2009

**What are possible new directions relevant to JEC/JSP/JMO?**



# VA/DoD Joint Executive Council (JEC) Charter

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- Oversee development & implementation of VA/DoD Joint Strategic Plan (JSP)
- Oversee Health & Benefits Executive Councils and the Interagency Program Office
- Identify opportunities to enhance mutually beneficial services and resources
- Submit Annual Report to Secretaries and Congress including progress of the JSP



# VA/DoD Joint Executive Council (JEC) Charter



- Oversee development & implementation of VA/DoD Joint Strategic Plan (JSP)
- Oversee Health & Benefits Executive Councils and the Interagency Program Office
- Identify opportunities to enhance mutually beneficial services and programs
  - **Post-combat care**
  - **Immediate post-war and long term**
- Submit Annual Report to Secretaries and Congress including progress of the JSP



# VA/DoD Benefits Executive Council (BEC) Charter

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- Examine ways to expand and improve information sharing
- Refine process of records retrieval and identify procedures to improve benefits claims process
- Streamline the transition process from active duty to veterans status including the standardization of the cooperative physical examination protocol, interoperability and data sharing



# VA/DoD Benefits Executive Council (BEC) Charter



- Examine ways to expand and improve information sharing

**Post -combat care  
continuity**

- Refine process of records retrieval and identify procedures to improve benefits claims process

**Post-combat  
reintegration**

- Streamline the transition process from active duty to veterans status including the standardization of the cooperative physical examination protocol, interoperability and data sharing

**Multiple  
deployments**



# BEC Working Groups



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## Benefits & Services

- Enhance collaborative efforts to educate active duty, Reserve, and National Guard personnel on VA and DoD benefits programs, eligibility criteria and application processes

## Benefits Delivery at Discharge

- To improve participation in the BDD program nationwide and ensure service members are afforded the single cooperative examinations where available.

## Information Sharing/Information Technology

- Develop interoperable data repositories that will form the backbone for all sharing electronic military personnel information; interoperable software applications; and the adoption and identification of common data, architecture, communications, security and software standards

## Medical Records

- Address Health Treatment Record (HTR) issues and facilitate resolution and review the paper HTR business process within the Departments as required





# BEC Working Groups

## Benefits & Services

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**Post-combat recovery and reintegration**

## Benefits Delivery at Discharge

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**Seamless post-combat care**

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**Post-combat care continuity**

## Medical Records

- Address Health Treatment Record (HTR) issues and facilitate resolution and review the paper HTR business process within the Departments as required

**Post-combat care continuity**



# HEC Working Groups

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## **Acquisition and Medical Materiel Management**

- Combine medical supply requirements to leverage volume and negotiate better pricing
- Eliminate duplication of contracting & contract administration effort
- Allow customers to select products and pricing
- Identify new business practices

## **Continuing Education & Training**

- Enhance the open and ongoing dialogue between the Departments on continuing education and training infrastructure and operations issues
- Identify opportunities for joint educational contracts and co-development of training programs of mutual interest and benefit
- Design and develop a strategy to facilitate sharing of education and training opportunities particularly those that take advantage of distributed learning architectures



# HEC Working Groups



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**Formalizing approaches  
to post -combat care  
Joint DoD-VA training:  
OEM**



# HEC Working Groups



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## Deployment Health

- Establish an open dialogue between Departments on issues of deployment health
- Collaborate on review of VA's Congressionally mandated report on gulf war illnesses, and other related reports
- Identify and foster opportunities for sharing information and research between VA, DoD, and HHS

## Evidence-Based Guidelines

- Identify CPGs requiring clarification/modification to remove barriers and enhance sharing
- Develop recommendations for streamlining CPGs for specified clinical areas
- Develop tools to facilitate implementation of CPGs
- Monitor and evaluate published CPGs to identify strengths and resolve problems



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**Formalizing approaches to post - combat care**  
**Joint DoD-VA training, collaborative research**

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**Post-combat care CPGs**



# HEC Working Groups

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## **Financial Management**

- Inter-departmental communication on resource management issues
- Review reimbursement policies & identify policies requiring modification/clarification
- Develop recommendations for improving financial processes and practices (create incentives)
- Resolve billing and reimbursement problems
- Joint Incentive Fund implementation guidelines

## **Graduate Medical Education**

- Review current state of GME between both departments
- Develop joint pilot program for GME
- Develop agreement for departments to implement and finance program

## **Information Management/Information Technology**

- Oversee the development and implementation of VA/DoD health IM/IT initiatives




# HEC Working Groups

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**Post-combat care: OEM training**  
**Joint DoD-VA training, research**

## Information Management/Information Technology

- Oversee the use of IM/IT initiatives



**Seamless DoD-VA care**  
**Joint DoD-VA training, research**



# HEC Working Groups



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## Joint Facility Utilization and Resource Sharing

- Identify areas for improved resource utilization

## Mental Health

- Increase collaboration between VA and DoD on the provision of mental health services to both VA and DoD beneficiaries

## Patient Safety

- Improve continuity of care/patient safety
- Identify and implement best practices in patient safety

## Pharmacy

- Joint evaluation of high dollar/volume pharmaceuticals
- Increase uniformity & improve clinical and economical outcomes of drug therapies
- Eliminate redundancies in class reviews, contracting prescribing guidelines, and utilization management





# HEC Working Groups

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**Post-combat care: de-stigmatizing  
MH care  
Long term support of post-war  
concerns**

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# VA/DoD Interagency Program Office (IPO) Charter

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- Leadership: Director, DoD & Deputy Director, VA
- Act as a single point of accountability for DoD and VA and provide management oversight of joint activities involving the development and implementation of electronic health record systems or capabilities to provide full interoperability of health care information.
- **Oversee actions to accelerate the exchange of health care information between the Departments.**
- Will be responsible for working with the Departments on joint functional activities.
- **Will monitor and provide input on personnel and benefits electronic data sharing initiatives between DoD and VA.**



# VA/DoD Interagency Program Office (IPO) Charter

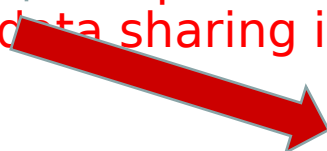


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**Seamless post-combat and long term clinical care**

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**Seamless clinical care/ accessible benefits**



# **Caring for Returning Combat Veterans: The Doorway to DoD/VA Integration**

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- To effectively meet the needs of returning combat veterans and their families requires interagency integration



# Caring for Returning Combat Veterans: The Doorway to DoD/VA Integration

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- Providing care and support for returning combat veterans is a core mission of the DoD, the VA and our nation; it is both an opportunity at hand as well as a real time measure of our success or failure
- Effectively meeting the needs of returning combat veterans and their families requires interagency integration
- Our national identity, integrity and security depends upon the support and care we provide for those who have served and sacrificed



# Caring for Returning Combat Veterans: The Doorway to DoD/VA Integration

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- How we approach and the degree to which we are successful in caring for our returning combat veterans will both reflect and determine the identity of the VA and the DoD in terms of integrity, truth to mission, clinical quality and heart.
- Success in this mission of requires success in the DoD and in the VA as individual entities as well as success as collaborative partners.



# **VA/DoD Joint Executive Council (JEC) Charter**

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**What could be more important  
than for us as a community  
to come together  
in support of those  
who have gone off to war  
on our behalf?**